**Knife bans don’t work**

Daily Telegraph

17/2

I am writing in response to *Boy, 12, stabbed to death at school*, (The Age, February 16th). Yet another tragic loss of a young life due to a knife attack at school. What is the answer?

Do we try to ban all knives?

No, we tried that with guns and that didn’t stop gun-related killings. The problem seems to stem from our society which seems to think that to sort out problems you resort to violence.

Where once it was the norm to use a bit of biff, now young people go to the extreme of taking another’s life.

Just what are our youth learning from movies, television, internet and in the home?

Growing up in the 50s and 60s, the majority of us went to Sunday school where we were taught the golden rule and to respect authority and value human life.

At home these values were reinforced and we were taught to love and help one another.

As a society we must all take some of the blame because we have failed to teach our young people the right way to live.

Tony Evans

Braybrook

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Dear Editor,

I am writing about the problem of young people carrying knives in Melbourne’s western suburbs. I believe that the solution to this problem is for knives to be banned in public places, and for police to be given more power to search and arrest people they believe may be carrying weapons.

As the situation currently stands, young thugs who terrorise and harm innocent people know that they can get away with murder – literally! If police are given greater powers to search and arrest criminals, it will make these hoodlums will think twice about having knives in their possession. Knowing that they could be arrested on the spot and charged with an offence, would any young person willingly carry a weapon in a public place?

I write in response to Tony Evans (*Knife Bans Don’t Work*, Daily Telegraph, 17/2). Mr Evans believes that banning knives won’t work, because ‘we tried that with guns and that didn’t stop gun-related killings.’ On the contrary, Mr Evans – the banning of guns in Australia has reduced the gun suicide rate by 74%, saving 200 lives each year. If we really want to prevent knife-related deaths in our community, the best solution is to ban knives in public places, and to allow police the freedom to carry out their job of keeping our community safe from violent young thugs.

Mary Tran

Sunshine